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one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event;  
storing the data in a memory connected to a controller associated with only one of  
the gaming devices;  
transmitting data indicative of gaming device activity from the gaming device to  
the controller;  
transmitting a pay command from the controller to the gaming device upon the  
occurrence of the predetermined event only if a bonus period has been initiated; and  
paying the bonus via the gaming device responsive to receipt of the pay  
command.

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- ~~63.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein the predetermined event comprises a predetermined transaction at the gaming device.
- ~~64.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~63~~ wherein said predetermined transaction comprises making a wager at the gaming device.
- ~~65.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~63~~ wherein said predetermined transaction comprises a handle pull at the gaming device.
- ~~66.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein providing data establishing criteria to cause a bonus to be paid from the pool via one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event comprises providing data causing <sup>money</sup> ~~a bonus~~ to be paid from the pool via one of said selected gaming devices only if predetermined minimum gaming device play is achieved.
- ~~67.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein said predetermined event comprises transmission of a pay command from the host computer to the controller.
- ~~68.~~ (new) A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:  
establishing a predetermined minimum level of gaming device play;

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detecting wagers made at each of the gaming devices; and  
initiating a bonus period during which gaming devices which exceed the  
minimum level are eligible to be paid a bonus responsive to the occurrence of a predetermined  
event and gaming devices which do not exceed the minimum level are not eligible for such a  
bonus.

~~68~~ 69. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~ wherein initiating a bonus period comprises  
transmitting a command over the network to the gaming devices.

~~9~~ 70. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~ wherein said method further comprises:  
using the network to track the amount of money played on the selected gaming  
devices; and  
allocating a predetermined percentage played to a bonus pool.

~~10~~ 71. (new) The method of claim ~~70~~ wherein the bonus period is initiated after the bonus  
pool exceeds a predetermined level.

~~11~~ 72. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~ wherein the predetermined event comprises a jackpot  
paid at one of the gaming devices.

~~12~~ 73. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~ wherein the predetermined event comprises random  
selection of one of the gaming devices.

~~13~~ 74. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~ wherein said method further comprises paying a  
bonus to a gaming device responsive to a pay command transmitted from the host computer over  
the network.

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75. (new) The method of claim 68 wherein said method further comprises:  
storing data defining the predetermined minimum level of gaming device play in  
a memory at the gaming device; and  
comparing the level of gaming device play with the stored data.

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76. (new) The method of claim 68 wherein said method further includes indicating to a  
player of the gaming device whether or not the gaming device is eligible to be paid a bonus.

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77. (new) A method of operating gaming devices configured to play a preselected game  
interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:  
permitting players to play the preselected game at the gaming devices;  
paying to each device in accordance with a payout table stored in the device after  
each game;  
monitoring the activity of the gaming devices;  
detecting the amount of money played on the gaming devices;  
allocating a predetermined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool;  
determining the level of the bonus pool;  
initiating a bonus period after the bonus pool exceeds a predetermined level;  
permitting continued <sup>play</sup> pay of the preselected game at the gaming devices;  
continuing to pay to each device in accordance with the payout table after  
initiating the bonus period; and  
paying a bonus to at least one of the gaming devices responsive to the occurrence  
of a predetermined event after initiating the bonus period.

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78. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein said method further comprises:  
detecting the amount of money paid as bonuses on the gaming devices;  
modifying the bonus pool by the amount of money paid as bonuses;  
determining the level of the bonus pool; and  
deactivating the bonus payout table in the gaming device after the bonus pool  
level falls below a turn-off level.

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79. (new) The method of claim 78 wherein said turn-on level is above said turn-off level.

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80. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein initiating a bonus period comprises transmitting a command over the network to the gaming devices.

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81. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein the predetermined event comprises a jackpot paid at one of the gaming devices.

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82. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein the predetermined event comprises random selection of one of the gaming devices.

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83. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein paying a bonus to at least one of the gaming devices comprises paying a bonus to a gaming device responsive to a pay command transmitted from the host computer over the network.

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84. 81. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein said method further includes:  
defining bonus eligibility criteria; and  
paying a bonus only to gaming devices which meet the criteria.

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85. 82. (new) The method of claim 81 wherein the criteria comprises a minimum level of gaming device play.

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86. 83. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein said method further comprises indicating to the player of the gaming device whether or not the gaming device is eligible to be paid a bonus.

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87. 82. (new) The method of claim 77 wherein said method further comprises:  
determining the level of play for a gaming device;  
preventing a bonus from being paid to the gaming device when the level of play falls below a predetermined level.

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